

CANADIAN DIGEST

MOVING PICTURE

\$5.00 a Year

RAY LEWIS
Editor and Publisher

10 Cents Per Copy

Vol. 32, No. 35

TORONTO 2, CANADA

December 14th, 1940

Did Mr. Kennedy Say That ?

It is some time since Mr. Joseph Kennedy was actively engaged in Motion Pictures, although rumours reached us when there were international film issues at stake, that Mr. Kennedy, in his official position as American Ambassador to England, but unofficially as related to the Motion Pictures Issues, said a word or two at London, in the interests of the American Producers and Distributors. This is natural and at least Mr. Kennedy would know something about the business which he was discussing.

When Mr. Kennedy returned to America, it appears that the press received an interview from him which in his official position, or even as a big business personality might be considered tactless, undiplomatic. That it was more friendly to the interest of the United States than to the interest of Great Britain is not surprising. However, if there is any truth in the rumour that Mr. Kennedy is considering a deal which involves the Hearst newspapers; and any importance to the story which the Motion Picture Herald has editorially published and which states, "It seems that Mr. Kennedy was up to La Cuesta Encenada while out West. Wednesday he was in New York, and, coincidentally or not, so was Mr. Arthur Pool, now a financial official of the American President Lines in San Francisco, the same who once explored the Hearst newspaper books for Mr. Kennedy, leading to the report which preceded the realignments of the Hearst papers." Then we might presume that Mr. Kennedy is drawing closer to the Hearst Interests.

When Britishers hear the name of Hearst publications, those of us who can look back to the last War remember that the Hearst publications were definitely anti-British. Hollywood was filled with all manner of anti-British ideas, editorially presented during the last War, but Hollywood continued to make pictures which were definitely anti-Hun and pro-British.

The fact that Mr. Kennedy, no longer American Ambassador at the Court of St. James's, London, England, has been to Hollywood and that Hedda Hopper in her column has intimated that Mr. Kennedy is uncertain of his plans, geographically or officially, is not important. The report that the State Department is alleged to have heard that Mr. Kennedy has been advising Hollywood producer friends to quit making pictures "offensive to dictators", tacked on to another idea attributed to Mr. Kennedy, namely that Britain was losing, and that America should stall for time to arm, these reports are certainly disquieting to Britishers; and should be to Americans.

The Motion Picture Industry knows what has happened to its branches in the countries controlled by Fascists and Nazis. We know that when Germany took control of its Motion Picture Industry, that it did so, not only with the intention of permitting its gang to do a little more stealing, but of using the Power of the Screen to spread its Nazi ideology.

The "Baptism of Fire" is now an old story. We know how this film was made and used. We know that the Nazi propagandists have attempted to get their films exhibited and distributed in America, offering some of their films free for exhibition and distribution.

We do not believe that Hollywood, which has every reason to hate Hitlerism, will be persuaded to use its power in any way but that which will be pro-British. Since Mr. Kennedy is such an expert on figures, might it not occur to him that the British Empire is about the only market which American producers and distributors have left, outside of the Domestic Market, for American-made pictures; and there is some consideration, or is there, due to such a customer?

Stepping out of dollars and cents, be they millions of dollars, and millions of cents, is this a British War, or is this Hitler's War? A War of Dictators to drag the masses back to the days of slavery, to blot out every bit of the road which the masses have built for their improvement, their enlightenment and freedom. We know that the war of the people will be won by the people; that the good of the people is bound up with the progress of civilization; and that history has many times recorded the short, although bloody history of Dictators. We suggest that Mr. Kennedy read a little history.

—Editor.

John Grierson, Canadian Film Commissioner Resigns

"JOB DONE", RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE IN FEBRUARY

Ottawa, Ont. — John Grierson, Canadian Film Commissioner for the past year, has tendered his resignation to the Film Board. Credited with being one of the originators of the documentary film, and one who has made educational films fascinating, issued a statement while he was in New York, and reported in the press:

"My job in Canada was to establish a National Film Board and when it was established to hand it over to Canadians to run. I feel that the board has now arrived at a point where we have made rather a success of it and it is just right to hand over. I will probably do this in January. I feel that the board should be run by Canadians and not by outsiders." He also stated that he had agreed to stay on the job for six months, but that he had remained for almost a year.

Mr. Grierson, a Scotsman, was on his way to Australia when war was declared and returned to Washington from Hollywood to do special work for the British Embassy. The Hon. W. D. Euler, then Minister of Trade and Commerce, persuaded him to come to Canada and accept the post of Dominion Film Commissioner.

He is largely responsible for the production of the "Canada Carries On" films, that have been shown in United States, Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, as well as in Canada. He has also introduced the most ambitious series of documentary films ever undertaken in Canada, most of them 16 millimetre size for screening in college, club and schools.

There is no definite information as to who will take the post left vacant by Mr. Grierson's resignation, which will take effect late in February. Mr. J. Davidson, British documentary film specialist, reported as on his way to Canada, may be slated to take a responsible position in the Film Bureau.

WARNER EMPLOYEES AID BRITISH AND GREEK

New York, N.Y. — Employees of Warner Bros. and its affiliated companies throughout the United States have contributed to date approximately \$5,700 in response to an appeal for donations in aid of the British cause.

Of this sum \$5,200 was presented Tuesday to the British War Relief Society to purchase two motor kitchen units, each capable of feeding two hundred persons, and thirty hospital bed equipments. The balance of the sum collected, approximately \$500, is being given to the Greek Relief Fund.

In addition to the money collected, the women employees of the Warner organization have given their services in making some 500 knitted garments.

BORIS MORROS IN TORONTO

Toronto, Ont. — Boris Morros, producer of the film "Second Chorus", which Paramount is releasing, was in Montreal and Toronto this week in connection with the press showing of his film, which he produced on a co-operative scheme. The leading players are Fred Astaire, Paulette Goddard, Burgess Meredith, Artie Shaw and Charles Butterworth.

In an interview published in a Toronto paper, Morros is reported as saying that he hopes to make a lot of money from the film, which will be divided among the principal people concerned with its making, and thereby prove that pictures can be made on a low budget.

GLORIA JEAN STAR ON SANTA CLAUS FUND BROADCAST

Toronto, Ont. — Gloria Jean visited Toronto this week and took part in the Star Santa Claus Fund Broadcast, through which \$10,000 was raised for children's Christmas cheer.

"A Little Bit of Heaven", the new Universal Gloria Jean film, opened this week at Shea's Theatre.

NO PRE-XMAS LULL BROADWAY BUSINESS GOOD

New York, N.Y. — Broadway business has held up splendidly, and the expected pre-Xmas lull has not yet been noticed. Most houses played to capacity business over last week-end. Seven legitimate plays gave performances on Sunday, under the new ruling whereby legit may open Sunday in New York.

"KITTY FOYLE" - CHOSEN BY WORD OF MOUTH CLUB

Toronto, Ont. — A copy to hand of the RKO Radio sales promotion book on "Kitty Foyle" sent to us by Leon J. Bamberger, Sales Promotion Manager. This book has been mailed to exhibitors throughout the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

"Kitty Foyle", tagged "The Story of America's White Collar Girl", is outlined, with shots of scenes in the film, and some of the "Kitty Foyliana" dialogue. A clever line — "Chosen by the Word-of-Mouth Club".

FALK VS. SMITH APPEAL DISMISSED WITH COSTS

Toronto, Ont. — The decision of the Court of Appeal, in the case of Stella Falk vs. Ray Lewis Smith, and the reasons for the judgment was delivered on December 10th, 1940. The case was dismissed with costs by the Hon. Mr. Justice McFarland, from whose judgment Mrs. Falk appealed.

D. L. McCarthy, K.C., and W. Heighington, K.C., appeared for the plaintiff, and I. F. Hellmuth, K.C., for the defendant.

We quote from the reasons for judgment of the Appeal Court: "The whole episode is quite devoid of significance, and the parties, having taken their respective newspapers to redress their grievances, must be left to the consequences of their respective acts. I think the action was rightly dismissed and the appeal should be dismissed with costs."

"JAY L" ON THE MEND

Toronto, Ont. — "Jay L" Smith, manager of the Avenue Theatre, underwent an operation at the Toronto General Hospital Tuesday. His condition is reported as satisfactory.

FILM EXCHANGES DOING THEIR "BIT" IN SAINT JOHN

Saint John, N.B. — The Film Exchanges are doing their share to promote the sale of War Savings Stamps in Saint John, the distributing centre for the Maritimes. The exchanges are collecting certain amounts from their employees weekly, and their sale of stamps compares very favourably with the sale reported by other industries here.

M. Bernstein and A. I. Garson of the Maritime Film Company are representatives on the Provincial Council of New Brunswick for the sale of stamps. J. Lieberman, manager for Columbia, is chairman of the Hebrew War Council for War Savings Sales, and has offered a silver cup for a contest by the twelve members of the Committee — the cup to be held for three months by the member selling the greatest number of stamps and certificates. Each of the twelve members call on an average of twenty-five persons weekly, and check up on sales. The depot for stamps is at United Artists with Charles S. Chaplin in charge.

PAT GREENLEES PASSES

Woodstock, Ont. — Pat Greenlees, for the past twenty-eight years a motion picture exhibitor, passed away following a heart attack on Saturday. In 1912 Pat built the Princess Theatre, and has operated the house since that date. He was 68 years of age.

RAY PRESENTS



I HAVE a letter from E. P. Fields of the Capitol Theatre, Moose Jaw, Sask., who encloses a lengthy clipping from the Times-Herald adding, "Dear Miss Lewis. Another little war service from a member of the Motion Picture Industry, away up here on the prairies."

I note that the clipping refers to the arrival of the Second R.A.F. group and states, "Arrangements had been made by E. P. Fields, transportation officer of the Veterans' Security Corps, for a number of private automobiles to be at the C.N.R. station. "The men were tired out after their long sea voyage, which they stated had been uneventful, and the overland journey to Moose Jaw. The bright sunlight and the brisk dry air of the prairies was a new sensation for them and the three or four inches of snow which covers the ground appeared as a very heavy snowfall to them; and there were many inquiries as to how deep the snow was in mid-winter, and how cold it would get.

"Unlike the men of the first contingent, they had a slightly better idea of what they were coming to; and they did not expect to see every other citizen minus a leg, arm or a hand and without noses and ears due to the below zero weather. Those who had doubts were assured by the Moose Jaw men who met them that it never got very cold. Those who anticipated being greeted by cowboys and cowgirls on ponies found the only difference between Moose Jaw and the Old Land was that we drive on the right side of the road."

A LETTER from Brandon, Man., Strand Theatre, F. E. Petch, manager, shows that the Strand Theatre management is right on its toes for War Service, but here's the letter, "Dear Ray Lewis, You and all the members of the War Services Committee are to be congratulated on the success of the Rodeo Show, recently held at the Coliseum, Toronto, which made it possible to send Five Thousand Pounds to the Lord Mayor's Fund. You have every justification for feeling proud of the magnificent sum raised from this War Effort.

"We at the Strand Theatre, Brandon, are also contributing in our own small way to the War Effort. A few weeks ago we gave permission to the Red Cross Society to sell photographs of Miss Carroll at all the performances of the "N.W.M.P." The photograph of Miss Carroll was snapped on the station platform by an amateur photographer on the occasion of a reception we had arranged for the N.W.M.P. party on its way from the Regina World's Premiere to the Winnipeg Capitol. The idea was our own entirely and was suggested by us to the Red Cross Society. As you will see by the attached letter this idea raised \$185.00. There was absolutely no expense because a local photographer made 1,500 prints of the snapshot as a donation to the Red Cross so that the entire proceeds were turned over to Red Cross War Work.

"The Strand Theatre Social Club also made a donation this Spring of \$50.00 to the War Service Fund. In order to do this the staff members had to sacrifice a Picnic in the Summer and a couple of corn roasts in the Fall. Funds of

the Social Club are raised through weekly subscriptions of Staff Members.

"The Strand Theatre was authorized to donate \$50.00 to the Red Cross Society this fall. \$25.00 was also donated to the Children's Aid Society for the relief of Refugee Children."

AN attached letter from Mr. Petch was from the President of the Brandon Branch of the Canadian Red Cross acknowledging the receipt of \$185.31. Now, here is an example of quick thinking. Mr. Petch took advantage of Madeleine Carroll's visit to Brandon, and without any expense managed to raise close to two hundred dollars, which he turned over to the Canadian Red Cross. Miss Carroll, in her gracious way, gave to the Strand Theatre management her usual generous co-operation.

A letter from the Pictou Theatre, N.S., Herbert Wisener, reads, "Dear Miss Lewis, May I congratulate you and The Digest for the part you have played in putting over the Rodeo recently, and for the many splendid services you are rendering in assisting the Industry's War Effort. I follow closely; and with great interest, the many really fine efforts of The Digest and other members of Canada's Motion Picture Industry.

"Although our town has been hit very hard by enlistments, and Show Business is far from what it should be, we are endeavoring to help out in every possible way. We are co-operating in every way with the War Services Committee and assisting every Local Organization in their War Efforts, and are planning a "Spitfire Show" Dec. 18th, with the entire proceeds for the local Spitfire Fund. Film costs etc., are being borne by the theatre.

"A large number of free admissions have been given to Royal Navy Ratings who are attending a short course in a local Machine Shop here. A Poster Shop operated by the theatre supplies all local organizations with any Advertising or Signs they may require free of charge. We welcome the opportunity to be of service to the Committee at any time."

Thanks Mr. Wisener for your letter and best wishes for the good work. Carry On is the spirit. With approximately 1,200 theatres on the job, all keyed up for War Services, with our public contacts, we should represent an organized force across the Dominion whose efforts can be continually pyramided.

THE letter from Tom McKnight, of the London Theatre Managers' Association, includes a paragraph which the War Services Committee may like to read, "The London Theatre Managers' Association sends congratulations to the Motion Picture War Services Committee and the 'Pioneers' for the magnificent way you put Rodeo 'Over the Top'.

"In the belief that in 'Unity There Is Strength' the theatre managers in London formed a Theatre Managers' Association some weeks ago, our objective being to create new interest in our Industry and to be in a position to give the Motion Picture War Services Committee concerted co-operation in their War Activities.

"The London Free Press has co-operated with us 100% and we are greatly encouraged by the success that has attended our efforts to date. We believe that we are the only association of (City) Theatre Managers in Canada.

(Continued on Page 9)

The Canadian Moving Picture Digest

Entered as Second Class Matter
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Published by
CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST
COMPANY, LIMITED

259 Spadina Avenue - Toronto

Telephone: Waverley 4929

Cable: Raydigest

Established 1915. Publication weekly.

Subscription: \$5.00 yearly

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PREMIER THEATRES ADOPT STRATFORD STAMP SALE PLAN

Toronto, Ont. — Premier Theatres have been instructed by their head office here, to proceed with the sale of War Savings Stamps, following the system used by Mr. Charles B. Hider, manager of the Avon Theatre, Stratford, Ont. Within the past seven weeks \$725 worth of stamps have been sold in Stratford.

The plan is a simple one. Theatre-goers and others have bought stamps. Some of them have been attached to a card and placed in a box in the lobby while others have been kept and affixed to a personal folder. Those deposited in the draw box have formed the basis of the weekly draws and as many as 22 persons have received sufficient stamps to exchange for \$5 certificates.

XMAS EVE BENEFIT FOR MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL

Toronto, Ont. — Harry Alexander, President of the Independent Theatres Association, has donated the use of his Lansdowne Theatre, Lansdowne Ave., for a special preview showing at midnight, December 24th, under the sponsorship of the Medical and Dental Auxiliaries of Mount Sinai Hospital, with proceeds from the sale of tickets going to the hospital.

FREE CHILDREN'S MATINEES

Pincher Creek, Alta. — Board of trade here is sponsoring free matinees at the Opera house for all children of Pincher Creek and surrounding district. Shows started Dec. 7, and will continue every Saturday until Christmas. They will consist of the regular picture and short features.

NEARLY 1,000 CHILDREN ATTEND BOY SCOUT SHOW

Calgary, Alta. — Staff of the Capitol Theatre donated their services and Local 203 donated the services of the projectionists on a recent Saturday morning for the annual Boy Scout toy matinee. Nearly 1,000 children were present. Admission was one toy.

Estevan, Sask. — Recent business visitor to Winnipeg was J. Duane McKenzie, manager of the Orpheum.

RKO Radio Opens Ned Depinet Drive January 25th

LEO DEVANEY, CANADIAN MANAGER, HEADS DRIVE



Ned E. Depinet

New York, N.Y. — Ned E. Depinet, Vice-President of RKO Radio, will be honored in the company's 1941 Billings Drive, which will start January 25th, and end May 9th, covering a period of 15 weeks.

Heading the Ned Depinet Drive will be Leo M. Devaney, Canadian Division Manager, who is at present in New York at the Home Office, planning the details of the campaign. Mr. Devaney will hold meetings at the various branches before the Drive starts.

Some of RKO Radio's top productions are scheduled for release during the period of the drive. Among which will be, "No, No, Nanette", "Kitty Foyle", "Mr. and Mrs. Smith", "Citizen Kane", "A Girl, A Guy and a Gob", "The Devil and Mrs. Jones", "Tom, Dick and Harry" and "They Met In Argentine".

CHARLIE STEPHENSON AIDS KITCHENER RED CROSS SOCIETY

Kitchener, Ont. — Charlie Stephenson, manager of the Century Theatre, has offered to aid the Kitchener Red Cross Society in its plan to salvage 1940 auto markers as part of a provincial-wide drive.

According to the President A. J. Condict, Charlie will give a free theatre ticket to every child who brings a pair of license plates to the theatre the first three days of next week. In addition Mr. Stephenson has offered to pack the markers and deliver them to any place the Red Cross designates.

In expressing the appreciation of the Red Cross, it is reported that President Condict said "this is only another example of how the theatres are aiding us in our work".

ACCOMMODATE SOLDIERS

Chatham, Ont. — The Capitol Theatre has re-arranged its show schedule in order to accommodate soldiers billeted there. The first evening show starts at 6.30 p.m. with the doors open at 6.15. Formerly the first show was at 7 p.m.

BUSINESS MEN'S THEATRE PARTY AT PALACE, LONDON

London, Ont. — The East London Business Men's Association held its second annual Theatre Party at the Palace Theatre recently. In addition to the regular screen show, there were five theatre acts.

The Association is donating a beautiful Console Model Sperton Radio to the new Soldiers' Club which will soon be opening in the old Library Bldg. Approximately 100 prizes were drawn for on the stage during the evening, and presented to lucky ticket holders. The prizes were donated by the members of the merchants' association.

P. J. Simmons manages the Palace.

ENTERTAIN TROOPS

Regina, Sask. — Troops of the militia training centre are entertained twice weekly by picture shows arranged by the Y.M.C.A.

XMAS SECTION TIE-UP ON "IT'S IN THE AIR"

North Bay, Ont. — In conjunction with his booking of "It's In the Air", the Esquire George Formy film at the Royal, Gordon Beavis arranged for a tie-up with The North Bay Nugget, on a special Christmas shopping section which featured tie-ups on "It's In the Air" with practically all advertisers.

A few examples: "It's In the Air" — Zellers Shopping Spirit!; "It's In the Air" — Home Happiness — The City Laundry; "It's In the Air" — Christmas Spirit — Buy Her a Beatty Washing Machine.

GREEK RELIEF BENEFIT

Lethbridge, Alta. — "Help the Greeks. Don't let it be 'too little — too late' they're going places and 'Going Places' with Dick Powell and Anita Louise is the name of the picture playing Sunday at 2:30 and 9:30 with all proceeds going to Greek war relief." So read the advertisements in the Lethbridge Herald when the Capitol management turned over its theatre on Dec. 8, in connection with the Greek Relief Appeal in Lethbridge.

ARRANGES MONDAY SHOWS FOR LORD MAYOR'S FUND

Calgary, Alta. — J. Barron, proprietor and manager of the Grand Theatre, cancelled both afternoon and evening shows on Monday, Dec. 9, and turned over his theatre for a recital by Neil Chotem, young pianist, in aid of the Lord Mayor of London's War Victims' Fund. House holds 1,600 and long before the day of the recital well over 3,000 tickets had been sold.

"NWMP" CHILDREN'S SHOW

Swift Current, Sask. — Lyric Theatre here put on a Saturday morning matinee of "North West Mounted Police", because so many children were unable to gain admission to the evening showings due to the large crowds.



*The 'No, No' Girl
with the Yes, Yes eyes*

IN
RKO RADIO'S
GREAT
CHRISTMAS
ATTRACTION..

No, No, Nanette



Anna

NEAGLE

THE "IRENE" GIRL IN THE "TEA FOR TWO" MUSICAL ROMANCE

No, No,

CHRISTMAS ATTRACTION
RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL

Screen Play by Ken Englund

From the Musical Comedy—"No, No,
Nanette"—by Frank Mandel, Otto
Harbach, Vincent Youmans, Emil Nivtray

THE BIG "HAPPY-GO-LAUGHING" HOLIDAY HIT!...screened in a dazzling world of flashing gayety, rippling romance and joyous fun ...aglow with the tingling melodies of VINCENT YOUMANS ...alive with the sparkle of a cast of favorites ... bubbling over with BOX-OFFICE!

Manette

with

**RICHARD
CARLSON**



**VICTOR
MATURE**



**ROLAND
YOUNG**

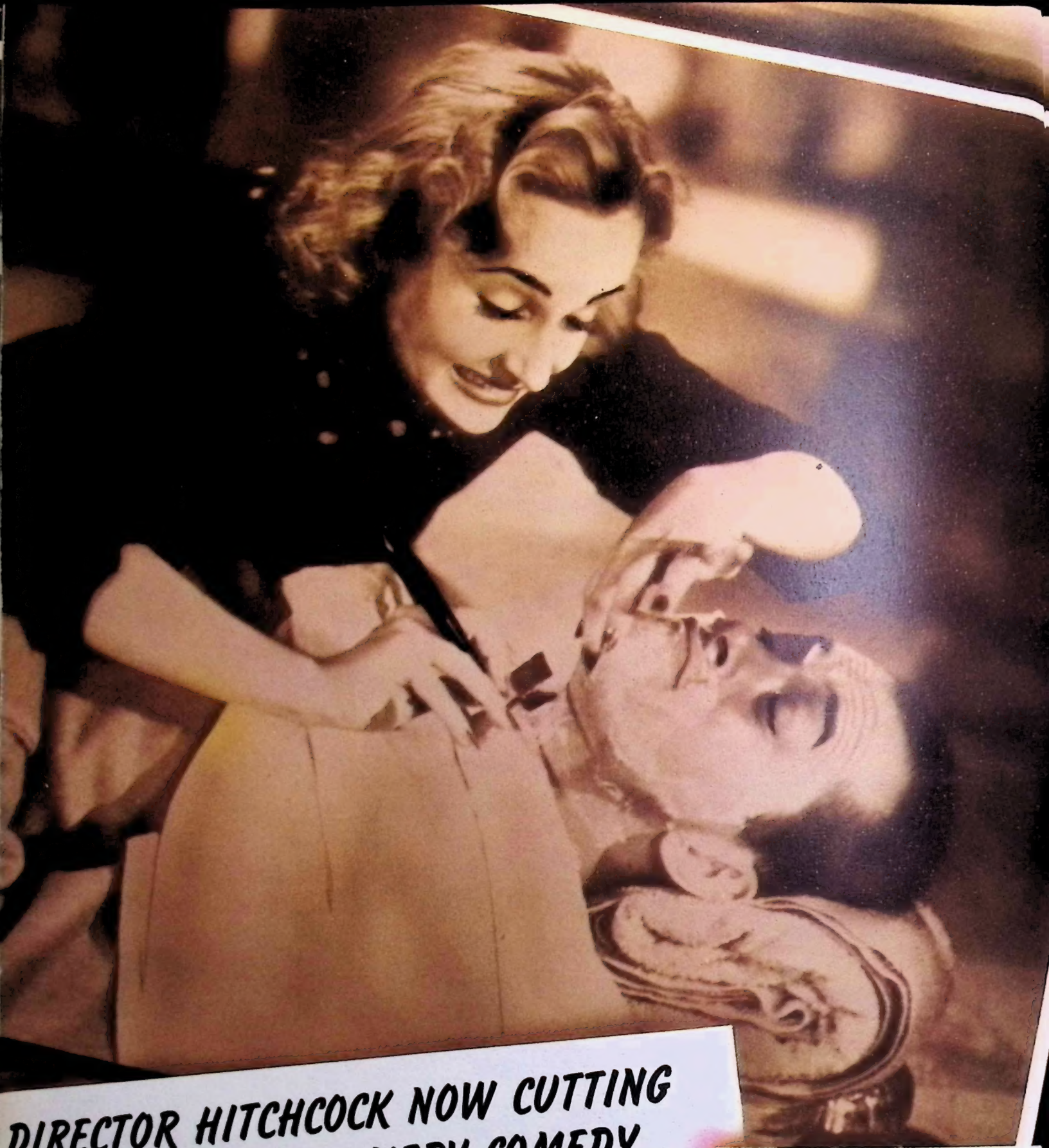
HELEN BRODERICK ★ ZASU PITTS ★ EVE ARDEN

TAMARA ★ BILLY GILBERT ★ STUART ROBERTSON

Produced and Directed by

HERBERT WILCOX





**DIRECTOR HITCHCOCK NOW CUTTING
LOMBARD-MONTGOMERY COMEDY
RIOT, "MR. AND MRS. SMITH"**

Director Alfred Hitchcock wanted to make a great mystery. He made "Rebecca." He wanted to do a great adventure. Look at "Foreign Correspondent." He wanted to direct a great comedy. The answer: Carole Lombard and Robert Montgomery, in "Mr and Mrs. Smith." It's now in the cutting room at RKO Radio, readying for early release, as also is that outstanding forthcoming attraction, Orson Welles as "Citi-

RAY PRESENTS

(Continued from Page 3)

"Knowing that you are heart and soul with anything that will help our Industry, Ray, I am taking the liberty of forwarding under separate cover a Tear Sheet from the London Free Press outlining our Birth. We appreciate what Ray and The Digest has done for our Industry and if you can still further encourage us by using any of the material we will be very happy."

I gave you the story of the Birth last week but am happy to add a few more details in the publishing of this story.

I HAD a talk with Harry Lester of the Bonita, Toronto, who has an excellent idea in connection with some War work. The Bell Telephone Company recently delivered its new telephone directories, but did not collect the old telephone books. Harry suggests that the theatre managers have a special matinee, the price of admission being two old telephone books. Harry states that in Toronto, he has the services of a truck which could gather these telephone books from the theatres which have had the children's show. The books can be sold as "paper" and a large sum of money raised, this sum to be turned over to the Telegram for the British War Relief Fund.

Harry believes that we can raise several hundred dollars. It is our intention to call a meeting of some of the Toronto exhibitors to get some action on this idea. This is the time of year when exhibitors have been accustomed to having children's shows with admission fixed at "canned goods", etc. It seems a pity that these hefty telephone books should go to waste. It appears that the telephone company considers the pick-ups unwarranted, because of the expense attached to same, but in War Time we think that someone can use these books, as the cost of paper of all kind has increased. The big idea is to get something which can be turned into money, the latter which can be turned over for Service.

The Pylon Theatre, Toronto, will have a children's party for the children of Veterans and men on Active Service, also the little War Guests. The management of the theatre is donating the theatre for this Children's Party. Also the use of the theatre has been given for some special private morning showings of pictures, the attendance to these showings strictly limited to certain regiments in uniform, all visitors and civilians excluded.

THE Evening Telegram's War Victims' Fund received a handsome contribution from the Motion Picture Industry in the form of two donations. One was a check for \$520, and was enclosed in a letter which read, "This represents money that would have ordinarily been spent for an exchange of Christmas presents between friends who decided this year to adopt this plan of sending money to air raid victims. Those responsible are Charles Mavety, Louis Rosenfeld, Arthur A. Lee, Pete Barnes, Mrs. O. R. Hanson and Mr. Hanson". The second donation came from A. Rappaport, manager of the Hollywood Theatre, Campbellford, Ont., and the letter read, "I felt personally that the citizens of this town would like to help in the raising of funds for those who are much less fortunate than ourselves. On my own responsibility I appealed to a number of merchants and suggested that each donate

some article or articles of merchandise which would be sold and the proceeds forwarded to this fund.

"I am happy to say that our merchants were enthused with the idea. Not only the merchants contributed but many other citizens gave freely many useful articles. The services of a licensed auctioneer was obtained and an auction sale was conducted at the Hollywood Theatre on the nights of Dec. 5th and 6th. Every article was sold and not one cent was paid out in promoting the sale. The citizens enjoyed a good show and were all glad to be able to purchase useful articles where the proceeds were all to go to the fund.

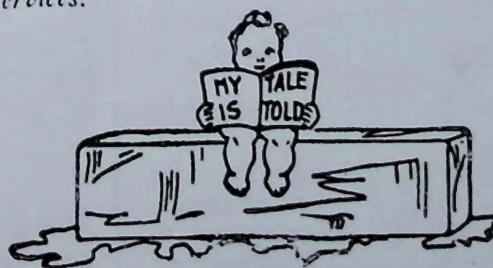
"I should like to point out that I believe this is the first time that an auction sale has been conducted in a theatre for this cause. I challenge the theatres in other towns to top this mark." The donation from the auction sale was for \$237.00, a very nice sum of money.

THE War Services Committee has a collection of clothing and trinkets, from stars and players, which have been used in pictures. This consignment of goods was sent on by Mr. Vogel, acting for Mr. Louis Mayer, the latter, chairman of the "Win The War" Hollywood Committee, organized during our War Savings Stamp Drive.

It was the intention of the Committee to auction these articles off at the time of the Free Show, but the idea did not fit into the plans of the sale of War Savings Stamps, and so the consignment of clothing, trinkets, etc., was turned over to the War Services Committee by the North Toronto group of theatre owners, who conceived the idea of auctioning these articles for War Services.

The officers of the War Services Committee are now working on an idea to raise some money through these articles now in their possession. Perhaps some of the members across Canada may have some good ideas on the subject, and if you will write me as Secretary-Treasurer of the War Services Committee, I will convey your ideas to the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. N. L. Nathanson, and the War Services Committee for consideration.

The articles are accompanied by a descriptive letter stating in which picture the article was used, and many of these letters are signed by the stars or players, which adds to the sales value of the contributions. Give us your ideas, exhibitors, you seem to be doing some great work on your own initiative. Write me what you are doing so that we can all be inspired to work, capitalizing on our Screen Power for War Services.



"They Knew What They Wanted" Unusual Drama "The Howards of Virginia" Spectacular Film

"THE HOWARDS OF VIRGINIA" COLUMBIA

***½ (On Technical Merit)

Reviewed by ROLY YOUNG,
The Globe and Mail, Toronto.

IN dramatizing the Revolutionary War in "The Howards of Virginia" (Imperial) Frank Lloyd has turned out an expensive and spectacular production that has much to recommend it. It is well above the average in every respect, and there is a particularly excellent cast. Unlike so many pictures where famous historic figures are mixed in with fictional ones, this one succeeds in blending the real and imaginary peoples in an easy-going manner which gives an air of authenticity to the whole proceedings. In addition there is a great deal of charm to that portion of the picture which deals with the life of Cary Grant and Martha Scott as they seek to adjust themselves to each other after a hasty marriage, and carve out a home for themselves in the wilderness of Virginia. These portions are, to my mind, the picture's greatest asset, for when it goes political it runs up against the necessity of dragging in many historic episodes which have little bearing on this particular plot, but which have to be included for the sake of the record. It is then that the film bogs down.

Curiously enough, while the picture succeeds in having charm it concerns a group of people who have little charm on their own account. Cary Grant is a boisterous, swash-buckling hero with little thought for others. Martha Scott (remember her from "Our Town"?) does a swell job with a character that needed a good spanking more than anything else. One is compelled to admire her work even though one doesn't admire the figure she portrays.

Sir Cedric Hardwicke is a brittle villain, and Alan Marshall never gets a chance to make anything out of his role. There are several excellent bits in the supporting cast and I draw your attention to a tiny bit by the woman who acts as midwife and calls Grant into his wife's room after the baby is born.

So much for the picture, purely as a picture.

In the star rating you will notice that I have qualified the rating by "on technical merit". I felt obligated to put in that qualification because there is every reason why "The Howards of Virginia" should get no rating because of its subject matter. I doubt if there has ever been a more inopportune

picture. I would almost be ready to accuse Frank Lloyd of trying to sabotage British-American relations were it not for the fact that there are spots where he has obviously tried to soften the edge of his situations. However, the fact remains that the principal concern of the picture is to emphasize the British oppression of the American colonies. That motivates the whole story, and its climax is the revolt against Britain.

I don't want to get into any arguments on that subject. Just when the civilized world is trying to heal that breach and bring Britain and United States closer together for mutual support in a world catastrophe is no time to start any such 200-year-old argument. However, that's exactly what "The Howards of Virginia" does. It not only starts the argument, but it drags it out all over the screen.

Patrick Henry haranguing against the British and spilling his famous "Give me liberty or give me death" speech may be great stuff in times of peace, but it's awfully embarrassing to contemplate as you read the front page of your morning paper.

Personally I am very surprised that the censors allowed the film to be shown, though I can see that there is absolutely no ground for stopping it except the very ambiguous one of its being untimely and directly antagonistic to the international relations that we are trying so hard to establish.

Any one who is touchy about such things is likely to burst a blood vessel at "The Howards of Virginia".

Cast: Cary Grant, Martha Scott, Sir Cedric Hardwicke, Alan Marshall, Richard Carlson.

Directed by Frank Lloyd.

Running time—117 minutes.

"THEY KNEW WHAT THEY WANTED"

RKO RADIO

DIRECTED by one of Hollywood's brilliant young directors, Garson Kanin, and featuring such top-notch players as Charles Laughton and Carole Lombard, this film should draw.

Beautifully acted by a well-chosen cast, the film is sure to please those who like a good drama with passion, tears and forgiveness the principal theme.

Carole Lombard as the waitress who wants money, Charles Laughton as the California grape-grower in love with her, and William Gargan, the villain of the piece, all do good work. Frank Fay, Harry Carey make the performances of the padre and the doctor particularly fine.

The story is that Tony (Charles Laughton), on a visit to San Francisco, sees Amy Peters (Carole Lombard), a waitress, with whom he falls in love. After an unusual correspondence between the two, Ann consents to marry him, although she has never seen him. On arrival at his ranch she is attracted to Tony's foreman, Joe (William Gargan), who is much younger and more attractive than his employer. Before Tony and Amy can be married, Tony is injured in an accident, and the three are left at the ranch together.

From there the plot unfolds as in the previous version of this Sidney Howard play, in 1928 in "The Secret Hour" with Poli Negri and Jean Hersholt, and in 1930 in "A Lady In Love" with Vilma Banky and Edward G. Robinson.

Although in a difficult role, Carole Lombard who can handle either comedy or tragedy with equal skill, further proves she is a fine dramatic actress. Laughton, as the gentle Italian, has a difficult job on his hands to make his part sympathetic, owing to War circumstances.

This unusual film has been well directed, the photography is excellent.

Screenplay by Robert Ardrey from the play by Sidney Howard. Photography by Harry Stradling, with musical score by Alfred Newman.

Running time—89 minutes.

NO DAYLIGHT-SAVING REPEAL

Prince Albert, Sask. — A move to repeal the daylight saving time by-law was defeated by a majority of 238 votes in the recent elections. Prince Albert has had daylight saving for some time.

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"A LITTLE BIT OF HEAVEN" UNIVERSAL

Reviewed in The Evening Telegram

LIGHT and amusing, with several songs by Gloria Jean, is "A Little Bit of Heaven" at Shea's Theatre this week.

The producers gathered together a fine cast, including such standbys as Stuart Erwin, Hugh Herbert, C. Aubrey Smith, Noah Beery and Eugene Pallette. In addition, there are a couple of precocious twins, Butch and Buddy, and several old-timers, including Charlie Ray, whom we haven't seen for a long time.

It all adds up to good entertainment. Gloria Jean is cast as the singing daughter, who has swarms of uncles, a father who plays the trombone, and a grand old grandfather (C. Aubrey Smith). Her voice makes the family rich and they all go high-hat except grandpa.

The situations are amusing and the cast makes the best of their chances. Billy Gilbert as Tony, the spaghetti-cooking singing teacher; Eugene Pallette as a radio executive and Gloria Jean are the pick of the cast.

"A Little Bit of Heaven" was directed by Andrew Marton.

Running time—87 minutes.

REGINA FILM SOCIETY PLANS NEW ACTIVITIES

Regina, Sask. — National Film Society of Canada, Regina branch is making tentative plans to include in its 1940-41 activities the free showing of 16mm films to any Regina clubs or groups which might be interested. The films, short features of an informative nature, would deal for the most part with Canada's war effort and would be shown once a week or once every two weeks. Details of how the scheme could be carried out were explained to the executive by O. C. Wilson, secretary of the National Film Society and the Canadian Film Committee, Ottawa.

"STAR" MANAGER PASSES

Saint John, N.B. — The death of Arthur B. Farmer took place in Saint John recently to the regret of many friends in the city where he had spent his entire life. Mr. Farmer was manager of the Star Theatre for many years, one of the first of the "neighbourhood" theatres which catered to the people in the north end of the city during the days of silent pictures.

MANAGER PASSES

Toronto, Ont. — F. A. McArdle, one-time manager of the Shea's Hippodrome Theatre, and later the Gaiety Theatre here, passed away this week at his home. He was buried in Mount Hope Cemetery.

NAT TAYLOR BUILDING NEW CHATHAM THEATRE

Chatham, Ont. — A new theatre will be built by Twentieth Century Theatres on a property located on the north west corner of the junction of King and Fourth St., and will be known as the "Centre", according to an announcement by N. A. Taylor, general manager.

The theatre will have a seating capacity of 700, and will have a loge section for 200 patrons, where smoking will be permitted. Architects are Kaplan and Sprachman, Toronto, and the cost of the building and equipment will amount to about \$75,000.

This is the second announcement of a new theatre to be built in Chatham within the past two weeks, the first being on the site of the old Griffin Theatre.

ULSTER TO BUILD \$22,000 PEMBROKE THEATRE

Pembroke, Ont. — A building permit has been issued to Sam Ulster, Toronto, for construction of a theatre on a lot immediately west of the municipal offices. The estimated cost of the theatre will be \$22,000.

ASSOCIATED BUYS INTEREST

Timmins, Ont. — Associated Theatres (Oscar Hanson) has purchased the controlling share in the new Broadway Theatre, Timmins.

LYNN CONTINUES AT STRAND

Saint John, N.B. — Members of the Film Colony were pleased to welcome to Saint John, E. R. Lynn of the Strand Theatre, Sydney, who with his bride visited the city this week. It is understood that Mr. Lynn will continue to be associated with the Strand Theatre at Sydney, N.S., which he has operated for a number of years, the theatre having recently become one of the B. & L. chain.

WRIGHT RIALTO MANAGER

Montreal, Que. — William Wright, manager of the Monkland Theatre, has been appointed manager of the Rialto, according to an announcement by the United Amusement Corporation. Mr. Wright started in the business in his early twenties at the Capitol, Montreal, became assistant manager of the Seville, and in 1931 became manager of the Monkland, which position he has held for the past nine years.

CUZNER RENOVATES

Sydney Mines, N.S. — W. H. Cuzner has installed new sound equipment in his Strand Theatre here.

CELEBRATE 30TH YEAR

Saint John, N.B. — The Strand Theatre, (F. G. Spencer), Saint John, will this week celebrate its thirtieth anniversary.

KNIFFEN TO BUILD OWEN SOUND THEATRE

Owen Sound, Ont. — Leslie Kniffen, owner of a theatre in Kincardine, Ont., has purchased a property on 2nd Ave. East, and will convert the building into a theatre. Reconstruction will commence on March 1st, according to present plans.

LONGUEUIL THEATRE

Montreal, Que. — L. J. T. Decary, architect, is preparing plans for a theatre to be erected in Longueuil, at a cost of \$30,000.

The theatre will seat approximately 750 and the building will contain two stores. Owner is Albert Duclos.

NEW \$30,000 THEATRE

Haney, B.C. — The new theatre rumoured to be built here has materialized. W. C. Clayton and associates, have acquired a lot on the Lougheed highway, and plan to build a theatre at a cost of \$30,000.

PREMIER OPERATING OPENS TWO PARRY SOUND HOUSES

Parry Sound, Ont. — Premier Operating Corporation will open two new theatres here. The Parry Sound theatre on Christmas Day, and the Noble Theatre just outside Parry Sound, on December 14th. Jack Wellard will manage the houses.

ANOTHER SHARP THEATRE

Black Diamond, Alta. — Black Diamond Hall has been taken over by the Sharp Circuit and will be made into a movie house under the management of Harry Patten. The hall was recently renovated.

RANKIN MANAGING WALLACEBURG THEATRE

Toronto, Ont. — Harland Rankin of the Plaza Theatre, Tilbury, has taken over the management of the Alexander Theatre, Wallaceburg, Ont.

CAPITOL THEATRE TIE-UP

Yarmouth, N.S. — The Capitol Theatre will again tie-up with the Royal Store here, and children will be able to attend a free show this month. At last year's party, 4,000 girls and boys were treated to a free show.

LARRY GRABURN RETURNS

Regina, Sask. — Looking in fine shape for another world premiere, Larry Graburn, manager of the Capitol Theatre, is back on the job after spending the past few weeks at the west coast. Doctor's orders sent Larry to the coast after the strenuous job of staging the world premiere of "North West Mounted Police". He was relieved by Fred W. Tickell, assistant manager of the Capitol, Calgary.

ELIZABETH BERGNER OUT OF "49TH PARALLEL" FILM

Hollywood, Calif.—Elizabeth Bergner is reported as saying that she would not return to London to complete the film, "49th Parallel", a great part of which was filmed in Canada, because her contract provided that her part of the picture would be "shot" in Canada or the U.S.A.

She said that her contract stipulated that she would do one week's work in which the exteriors would be filmed in Canada.

In Toronto the offices of Ortus Films, producers of "49th Parallel", said that they had been told by their London headquarters that Miss Bergner had been dropped from the cast. Miss Bergner said the company cabled for permission to replace her and that she promptly consented.

PASSES FOR BLIND

Moose Jaw, Sask. — Princess Patricia Club, acting for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Saskatchewan branch, is issuing theatre passes to the blind people of this city. Passes, provided through the courtesy of Famous Players, are issued once a week to blind people and their guides.

TRAILERS GIFT TICKETS

Toronto, Ont. — Christmas gift books of theatre tickets will again be offered by Famous Players houses across Canada during the holiday season this year. Screen News has just completed a set of trailers for all Famous Players theatres from coast to coast.

SUNDAY CONCERTS

Calgary, Alta.—Palace Theatre was opened on a recent Sunday night to the Rupert Brooke Chapter of the I.O.D.E. for its concert "Siren Serenade", which featured Sonny Fry's orchestra and other entertainers with Gail Egan as master of ceremonies. Proceeds went to the Chapter's war work.

SAINT JOHN VISITORS

Saint John, N.B. — Recent visitors in Saint John were W. G. Gazeley, manager of the Capitol Theatre at Campbellton, N.B. (F. G. Spencer Co. Ltd.); J. Le Blanc of the Capitol Theatre, Shediac, N.B.; Lloyd Blackford, the New Era, Freeport, N.S. and P. R. Fielding of the Capitol Theatre, Bridgewater, N.S.

SANTA CLAUS SHOW

Maple Creek, Sask. — Children of the Maple Creek district were guests of the Grand Theatre management at a free show on a recent Saturday afternoon. Earlier in the day Santa Claus arrived in the town and merchants and the Ken Club provided free candy.

NEWSREEL COVERAGE ASN COMPLETES TRAVELOGUE

Montreal, Que.—Associated Screen News has completed a three-reel color travelogue in 16mm Kodachrome for the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, showing tourist attractions from Atlantic to Pacific. With sound track added it provides original score by Lucio Agostini and his orchestra, and narration by Corey Thompson. Camera work was handled by Norman Hull, with text by D'Arcy Marsh.

NORRISH IN NEW YORK

Toronto, Ont. — B. E. Norrish, president and managing director of Associated Screen News, was a visitor to New York, returning to head office in Montreal by way of Toronto.

Trans-Canada Showings

TORONTO

AVENUE

"Ghost Breakers" (Paramount), with Bob Hope and Paulette Goddard, also "Those Were The Days" (Paramount), with William Holden and Bonita Granville.

IMPERIAL

"The Howards of Virginia" (Columbia), with Cary Grant and Martha Scott, also "Blondie Plays Cupid" (Columbia), with Penny Singleton and Arthur Lake.

LOEW'S

"The Long Voyage Home" (United Artists), with John Wayne, Thomas Mitchell and Ian Hunter.

SHEA'S

"A Little Bit of Heaven" (Universal), with Gloria Jean, Robert Stack and Hugh Herbert, also "A Night at Earl Carroll's" (Paramount), with Ken Murray and Rose Hobart.

UPTOWN

"They Knew What They Wanted" (RKO Radio), with Charles Laughton, Carole Lombard and William Gargan.

SAINT JOHN

CAPITOL

"The Return of Frank James" (20th Century-Fox), with Henry Fonda, Gene Tierney and Jack Cooper.

STRAND

"Melody Range" (Republic), with Gene Autry, Jimmy Durante and Ann Miller.

MONTREAL

CAPITOL

"The Mark of Zorro" (20th Century-Fox), with Tyrone Power, Linda Darnell and Basil Rathbone, also "Youth Will Be Served" (20th Century-Fox), with Jane Withers.

LOEW'S

"The Letter" (Warner Bros.), with Bette Davis, Herbert Marshall and James Stephenson.

ORPHEUM

"The Long Voyage Home" (United Artists), with John Wayne, Thomas Mitchell and Ian Hunter.

PALACE

2nd week. "Arise My Love" (Paramount), with Claudette Colbert and Ray Milland.

PRINCESS

"Christmas in July" (Paramount), with Dick Powell and Ellen Drew, also "Dancing on a Dime" (Paramount), with Grace MacDonald and Robert Paige.

THEATRES WANTED TO LEASE OR PURCHASE IN TORONTO

WRITE BOX 8 - DIGEST

MRS. LAWSON PASSES

Ottawa, Ont. — Mrs. Jennie Lawson, mother of Hon. J. Earl Lawson, K.C., of Toronto, Canadian Picture Pioneer, and solicitor representing various motion picture interests, passed away at her home here on Sunday. The funeral was held from St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, Ottawa, on Wednesday.

WINNIPEG

CAPITOL

"Escape" (Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer), with Norma Shearer and Robert Taylor.

GAIETY

"The Return of Frank James" (20th Century-Fox), with Henry Fonda, Gene Tierney and Jack Cooper, also "Public Deb No. 1" (20th Century-Fox), with Mischa Auer, Chas. Ruggles and Brenda Joyce.

GARRICK

"Blackout" (United Artists), with Conrad Veidt and Valerie Hobson.

METROPOLITAN

"Night Train To Munich" (Regal Films) with Margaret Lockwood and Rex Harrison.

CALGARY

CAPITOL

"Arise My Love" (Paramount), with Claudette Colbert and Ray Milland.

PALACE

"South of Pago Pago" (United Artists), with Victor McLaglen, Jon Hall and Frances Farmer.

STRAND

"Boys From Syracuse" (Universal), with Allan Jones, Martha Raye and Joe Penner, also "You're Not So Tough" (Universal), with Dead End Kids and Nan Grey.

VANCOUVER

CAPITOL

"Escape" (Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer), with Norma Shearer and Robert Taylor.

DOMINION

"Boom Town" (Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer) with Clark Gable, Spencer Tracy, Claudette Colbert and Hedy Lamarr, also "Always A Bride" (First National), with Rosemary Lane and George Reeves.

ORPHEUM

"Moon Over Burma" (Paramount), with Dorothy Lamour, Robert Preston and Preston Foster, also "Rangers of Fortune" (Paramount), with Fred MacMurray, Patricia Morison and Albert Dekker.

PLAZA

"Charlie's Big-Hearted Aunt" (Empire-Universal), with Arthur Askey and Phyllis Calvert, also "Stranger on the Third Floor Back" (Empire), with Peter Lorre.

STRAND

"Too Many Girls" (RKO Radio), with Lucille Ball, Richard Carlson and Ann Miller, also "Men Against the Sky" (RKO Radio), with Richard Dix and Edmund Lowe.